



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

400 City Hall Annex  
25 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102  
www.stpaul.gov/parks

Telephone: 651-266-6400  
Facsimile: 651-292-7405

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**Lilydale Regional Park Frequently Asked Questions**

What is Lilydale Regional Park?

Lilydale Regional Park is a 384 acre park which includes the 100 acre Pickerel Lake and an additional 100 acres of wetland/marsh. A major portion of the park is located outside the limits of the City of Saint Paul in Dakota County but is owned and maintained by the City of Saint Paul. Defined by the Mississippi River on the north, Highway 13 located above the river bluffs to the south, Harriet Island Regional Park to the East and the Pool and Yacht Club to the west, The city of Saint Paul obtained the park through a land swap agreement with Ramsey County after the Village of Lilydale was relocated out of the floodway.

What has the process been in developing Lilydale Regional Park?

- 1991 The City develops the Lilydale/Harriet Island Regional Park Master Plan
- 2003 The City and Friends of Lilydale signed a Letter of Intent with Friends of Lilydale establishing updated shared priorities for programming and enhancements
- 2007 City initiates a process to develop a Master Plan Amendment for Lilydale Regional Park to update the plan and formalize current vision. Advisory Task Force includes citizens at large and representatives of various agencies including Friends of Lilydale, Friends of the Mississippi River, Friends of Ramsey County Parks and Trails, Riverfront Corporation and the West Side Citizens Organization.
- 2007-2009 Three Design Advisory Task Force Meetings One Public Open House, one survey, one focus group meeting on dog parks, several presentations to various stakeholders conducted. Task Force votes on elements of concept plan. Each element approved.
- 2010-2011 Convene 5 Design Advisory Task Force meetings and one Public Open House. Task force provided approval on options for gateway, bridge, roadway, shelter and restroom concepts. Consultant to move forward.
- 2/6/2012 Convene Design Advisory Task Force to update on plans for Lilydale and to get feedback on the segments of new trail necessitated by road construction project.



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### How will the Master Plan be implemented?

A multi-million dollar project requires phased implementation which will depend on available funding and construction sequencing. Flexibility, foresight, and patience are essential in staging an undertaking of this magnitude. The first work funded included environmental remediation and roadway, and shelter design and provision of utilities.

### Why are you doing the road first?

Construction of the new road will do much more in determining how the park will function than merely moving cars through it. Realigning the roadway away from the edge of Pickerel Lake is a big move that will provide better access to the lake for park users, reduce the speed of vehicular traffic and provide safe ways for wildlife to cross the roadway and provide utilities to the area of the proposed future shelter and restroom facility. This is the major infrastructure of the park.

### What will be constructed in 2012?

The gateway project for Lilydale Regional Park has been awarded to a contractor and will be constructed in the area of the Smith Avenue Bridge this spring.

The construction documents that are underway will contain plans for the remaining environmental remediation of the Park Dump site north of Pickerel Lake, road realignment, plans for the segments of trail that will be demolished by the new road design, and erosion control, stormwater management, final grading and landscape plans. The intention is to begin that construction this summer.

### Will Pickerel Lake still be accessible?

The plan includes access to Pickerel Lake for paddlers and current users of the lake. During construction, there may be times that it is unsafe to access the lake. We will know more details of the construction schedule and how it will affect park visitors once we have a contractor on board.

### Will the trails be accessible during construction?

We will include continuous access as a goal for the construction project.

### Will this be the only work done in Lilydale Regional Park?

The city is committed to seeking ongoing funding for the rest of the elements identified in the Master Plan Amendment. We expect that we can get the majority of that work done in the next 10 years. We are always looking for additional funding opportunities and welcome suggestions in addition to our usual funding mechanisms (Metropolitan Council, State Legacy funding).

### How will the rest of the park be designed?

Once dollars are secured for future projects, the city will engage the public in providing input during the design development of the funded elements. A task force would be developed looking at stakeholders and interested parties. Many of the same individuals who have volunteered during the process to date will likely want to stay involved. As agencies change and groups evolve, it will be important to engage representatives at the time to keep the advisory task force relevant.

### How can I stay informed?

Project updates will be posted on the website. If there are further questions regarding Lilydale Regional Park, we are happy to address them. Please call Project Manager, Ellen Stewart at 651-266-6380 or email [ellen.stewart@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:ellen.stewart@ci.stpaul.mn.us)